

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 NIC-01 PM-03

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R 281550Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5529

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, XA

SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT MEETING

REF: BANGUI 219

1. AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH AFRICAN AMBASSADORS INTERESTED IN
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NEXT WEEK'S FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT MEETING, WE DETECT DISTINCT

AIR OF UNEASINESS. ENQUIRIES AT GOCAR FONMIN HAVE YIELDED NEITHER AN AGENDA NOR LIST OF PARTICIPANTS. ONLY INFO SO FAR AVAILABLE FROM GOCAR SOURCES IS THAT WORKING MEETINGS WILL BE CLOSED.

2. GENERAL GUESS IS THAT AGENDA IS BEING PREPARED BY WORKING GROUP FROM IVORY COAST, SENEGAL AND CAR FOLLOWING GENERAL IDEAS OF RESPECTIVE CHIEFS OF STATE. ROLE OF FRENCH IN DEVELOPMENT OF AGENDA REMAINS MYSTERIOUS. ONE PROBLEM FORESEEN BY MANY IS THAT PROBABLY ATTENDANCE DOES NOT REPRESENT GROUPING WHICH CAN BY ITSELF MAKE DECISIONS.

3. NEVERTHELESS, IVORY COAST AMBASSADOR J. M. AGNINI BILE MALAN, WHO ACCOMPANIED BOKASSA ON HIS RECENT PRIVATE TRIP TO IVORY COAST (ABIDJAN 1227) REPORTS SOME INTERESTING VARIATIONS ON POSSIBLE AGENDA TOPICS. HE BELIEVES FREER CIRCULATION OF PEOPLE AMONG COUNTRIES THIS AREA A LIKELY ONE. ALSO, HE THINKS PROBLEMS CREATED FOR AFRICAN NATIONS TIED TO FRENCH FRANC BY DEVALUATION OF LATTER COULD RESULT IN DISCUSSION OF POSSIBILITY OF GREATER FLEXIBILITY FOR FRENCH AFRICAN CURRENCIES. AGNINI REPEATED EARLIER SPECULATION THAT RAW MATERIALS AND ENERGY WOULD COME UP AND ALSO SENEGALESE IDEA FOR SOME FORM OF REVERSE PREFERENCES FOR EC COUNTRIES IN SPITE OF LOME CONVENTION. LASTLY, HE SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY THAT IF UPPER VOLTA AND MALI ARE REPRESENTED AT BANGUI, THEY MIGHT HOLD PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS OVER BOUNDARY DISPUTE.

4. CHANCES OF ATTENDANCE BY SOME COUNTRIES, SUCH AS ZAIRE, MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY GOCAR FLIRTATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA, ACCORDING SOME AMBASSADORS HERE. CONSIDERING ALL FACTORS GUESSING IS THAT BETWEEN SEVEN AND NINE CHIEFS OF STATE WILL COME, MOST CERTAIN BEING SENEGAL, IVORY COAST, GABON, RWANDA, NIGER (BAMAKO 663) AND MAURITIUS. CHIEF MINISTER MANCHAM OF SEYCHELLES ALSO EXPECTED AS OBSERVER. THERE IS REAL QUESTION AMONG OBSERVERS HERE WHETHER OR NOT NUMBER IN THIS RANGE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR SUMMIT TO BE CONSIDERED REAL SUCCESS.

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